

GRANTS AWARDED TO MAKE UTAH COMMUNITIES SAFER, STRONGER AND BETTER PREPARED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OREM, Utah--June 23, 2004--Newly-awarded Citizen Corps grant money will directly benefit 33 Utah communities, the Utah Commission on Volunteers and Utah Division of Emergency Services announced today.

The Utah Citizen Corps Council awarded more than \$340,000 to local units of government, helping communities from Cache Valley to St. George.

"It's exciting to see so many communities engaging volunteers in Citizen Corps efforts," said Scott Snow, executive director of the Utah Commission on Volunteers.

Utah Citizen Corps was able to supply more than 90% of grant applicants with funding, sustaining existing Citizen Corps programs and establishing new Citizen Corps councils throughout the state.

In addition to forming councils, the Citizen Corps grants will fund specific services throughout Utah. For instance, Wayne and Piute counties are planning to introduce Community Emergency Response Teams to their communities. Midvale will bolster crime and safety education through its Neighborhood Watch program. And several regions, including Utah and Washington counties, plan to form Medical Reserve Corps programs.

"With these new grants, 25 of Utah's 29 counties will be served by a Citizen Corps council," said Larry Ellertson, chair of the Utah Citizen Corps Council. "We've made a lot of progress in a short amount of time."

Citizen Corps was launched in January 2002 as part of President Bush's USA Freedom Corps initiative to promote a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility.

Citizen Corps' mission is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds.

To learn more about Utah Citizen Corps and how you can become involved, visit www.volunteers.utah.gov or contact the Utah Commission on Volunteers at 1-888-755-UTAH.

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